



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - August 18, 2003**

- ***In the West***, beneficial showers are developing across the ***central Rockies***. Elsewhere, hot, dry weather favors fieldwork and summer crop maturation, but continues to strain drought-reduced irrigation reserves and stress pastures and rangelands.
- ***On the Plains***, hot, dry weather across ***central and southern portions of the region*** favors fieldwork and summer crop maturation, but continues to stress immature summer crops. Despite the arrival of slightly cooler weather and scattered showers on the ***northern Plains***, soil moisture remains a concern for the upcoming winter wheat planting season.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, hot weather and diminishing soil moisture reserves are adversely affecting immature corn and soybeans across ***western portions of the region***, where today's high temperatures are again likely to reach or exceed 100 degrees F. In contrast, summer crops in the ***eastern Corn Belt*** continue to benefit from mild weather and adequate soil moisture.
- ***In the South***, hot, dry weather prevails from the ***Delta westward***, stressing pastures but promoting fieldwork and summer crop maturation. Meanwhile, scattered showers linger in the ***Southeast***. Farther west, Tropical Storm Erika moved inland early Saturday about 45 miles south of ***Brownsville, TX***, causing local wind and storm-surge damage, but bearing 1- to 3-inch rains and boosting ***Deep South Texas***' soil moisture reserves.

**Outlook:** A high-pressure system will provide mild, dry weather to the ***northeastern quarter of the nation***, while locally heavy showers will linger along a stalled frontal boundary in the ***Southeastern and Gulf Coast States***. Farther west, a disturbance will trigger showers and thunderstorms across ***northern portions of the Rockies and Plains***, while a cold front will maintain unsettled weather in ***central and southern portions of the Plains and Mississippi Valley***. However, hot, mostly dry weather will persist across the ***Great Basin and Pacific Coast States***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 23-27 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Northeastern and Gulf Coast States***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected from the ***Pacific Coast eastward into the Midwest***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast in the ***Pacific Coast States and northern and central sections of the Rockies and Plains***, but cooler-than-normal weather will prevail in the ***Southeast***.

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**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>